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esting account by Mr. Carl G. Hansen of Minneapolis deals with "Contributions to Sports." Professor George T. Flom in his chapter on "Discovery and Immigration" devotes three paragraphs to nineteenth-century immigration. "To follow the westward movement of Norwegian settlement," he writes, "would be to follow the ever moving line of the frontier." In other chapters attention is given to Norwegian immigrant contributions in the fields of the arts and sciences, humanitarian work, shipping, and the fishing industry. The part played by people of Norwegian blood in American wars is the subject of a compact and valuable summary.

T. C. B.

American Samplers. By ETHEL STANWOOD BOLTON and EVA JOHNSTON COE. (Boston, The Massachusetts Society of the Colonial Dames of America, 1921. viii, 416 p. Illustrations.)

The temptation in reviewing this volume on *American Samplers* is to quote from the numberless quaint rhymes or to describe the still quainter scenes embroidered on the "exemplars" of our ancestors, for in these lighter matters there is much to interest and amuse the reader. But happily the book has a more serious side. Historical sketches are included for the samplers of every period, and there are chapters on the sampler verse, on stitches and patterns, and on schools for girls. Though the periods which form the basis of the treatment are arbitrary, the authors explain that convenience alone accounts for this choice of dates, for fads in sampler-making were no respecters of century marks.

The seventeenth-century sampler was more elaborate than that of the eighteenth and nineteenth. It served still the purpose for which the sampler came into existence, namely, to supply embroidery patterns. Hence it was worked by grown women as well as by girls. By the third decade of the eighteenth century a new kind of sampler was in vogue, in part growing out of conditions in the New World. It became a set task for young girls, and in place of intricate patterns of elaborate workmanship, it consisted of "little alphabets, numbers, and verses, separated by rows of extremely debased patterns." The early nineteenth century was the heyday of the American sampler, entirely freed from

English influence and exhibiting new patterns founded on the old but simplified for childish fingers. Though the stitchery was not fine and the fabrics not delicate, there was neither dearth of originality nor of samplers. With 1830 deterioration set in and the custom of sampler-making gradually died out, partly, no doubt, as a result of the craze for Berlin wool work.

The historical chapters are interesting and untechnical, not as complete here and there as one could wish and uneven in point of style and diction. They afford, however, a very good account of the main points in sampler history.

The purposes for which this book will be used in the majority of cases will be to consult the registers of samplers. Following every chapter of text is a list of samplers for the period described, giving the name of the maker, the year of completion, the maker's age, the size of the piece, the design, the stitches used, and the name of the present owner. The labor of collecting data about the twenty-five hundred samplers on which the conclusions of the book are based must have been Herculean, and the fact that not nearly all the samplers in the United States are included detracts in no wise from the worth of the book. Rather, it is expected that this volume will arouse an interest which will result in the resurrection of many a sampler now hidden away in garret and chest.

Besides the chapters written in description of sampler-making in the three centuries, there is a chapter on sampler verse, consisting mainly of a letter by Barrett Wendell. Following this chapter there is an anthology of sampler verse, arranged chronologically under such heads as "In Praise of Patriotism," "Reflections on Death and Sorrow," and the like. From this anthology a study of the feminine mind in the earlier centuries of American history could be made, so replete is it with indications of the joys, sorrows, aspirations, and religious sentiments of the girls of those years. It is a pleasure to find that individuality would display itself now and then, even though many, perhaps most, of the verses were doubtless supplied by parent or teacher. Surely no unimaginative schoolma'am prompted the sentiments on Patty Polk's sampler: "Patty Polk did this and she hated every stitch she did in it. She loves to read much more." A more complete interpretation of the verses of this

anthology would have proved very acceptable, though too much cannot be asked from a pioneer work of this kind.

From sampler to schoolroom is but a step, and one of the most interesting points established by this book is the fact that a hitherto ignored source for material on the education of girls in America is to be found in the sampler. The chapter on "Schools and Schoolmistresses" is one of the most instructive in the book, though suggestive of new approaches to the subject of the education of girls rather than a lengthy treatment of it. The final chapter entitled "Embroidered Heraldry" tells to most readers, doubtless, a new story—the interest of our forebears in hatchments and the way in which arms were embroidered by the daughter of the house.

The paper, binding, and print leave nothing to be desired, and the beautiful illustrations, one hundred twenty-six in number, mostly photographs of samplers, are of invaluable assistance to the reader. On the whole, this unusually attractive book is one of which the Massachusetts Society of the Colonial Dames of America and all the sister organizations which helped in the preparation of it may be proud. An interest in the activities of the early American woman was to be expected with the growing realization that whatever exhibits the everyday life of a group of people is of more importance for an understanding of their history than those outstanding occurrences with which the chronicler type of historian concerned himself. Hence it is not surprising at this time to find books like *American Samplers* on the bookseller's shelves.

G. L. N.